

Chitram

Volume 3

Chitra Bandha

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Author's Note

Chitram was written as a refutation of Weber's diatribe against Banabhatta and A.B.Keith's fulmination against Bharavi and Professor De of Dacca University who agreed with Weber.

Experts on Alamkara Sastra assert unanimously that they are Dushkritam, Dushgrahyam and Durbodhyam. Chitram is an attempt to make them Subodhyam and Sugrahyam. This work is not an anthology like the illustrious Sarngdhara Paddhati. It is a collection of all the available material in published books, books out of print and unpublished manuscripts, collected with great effort and arranged logically to make it a definitive work on Sabdalankaras. Slokas and Vyakhyanas are the crux of the matter. English translations are provided for the not so proficient.

Writing on paper was impracticable. At the age of 80+ I searched for, located and learnt Sanskrit/English software. Laboriously I typed the text. For the diagrams I tried software used by architects but settled for CorelDraw as more suitable. Patiently I learnt to draw diagrams already available. Where none existed, I drew them myself giving alternate versions. Drawing the diagrams, entering the letters and transferring it to the book were tiresome; but I plodded on.

Chitrabandhas are probably the most difficult of Sabdalankaras with the exception of Ekaksharas and Dvyaksharas. I had been fascinated by them. Volume 3 is a pioneering, exhaustive attempt to glorify this unique combination of sound and image. I thank Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan who agreed to publish the book.

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